



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,307	07/02/2003	Mark G. Meyer	29757/P-829	4054
49358 7590 04/17/2007 CARLTON FIELDS, PA 1201 WEST PEACHTREE STREET 3000 ONE ATLANTIC CENTER ATLANTA, GA 30309			EXAMINER SARKHILI, SARA	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/17/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

ED

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/612,307

Applicant(s)

MEYER ET AL.

Examiner

Sara Sarkhili

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :4/18/2005 and 10/6/2003.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-12, 14-16, and 18-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over www.Powerball.com in view of Walker et al (US 6,497,408).

Regarding claims 1-4, 35, 36, 38, and 41:

Powerball teaches receiving a plurality of player symbol selections from a plurality of numerical possibilities (Powerball Page 3), presenting the player with a ticket identifying the player symbol selections in response to placing of a wager by the player (Powerball Page 3 “purchase a ticket”), selecting a plurality of winning symbol

Art Unit: 3714

selections from said plurality of numerical possibilities and awarding a prize dependent on the number of corresponding player symbol selections and winning symbol selections (Powerball Page 3 & Page 1 "Powerball prizes and Odds"), and notifying the player of information related to the payout (Powerball Page 3 Paragraph 1).

The claimed multidimensional lookup table based on the respective number of symbols in each set of player symbols is shown on the top of the first page of Powerball. Said table also demonstrates that some of the value payouts (i.e. two matched numbers plus the powerball has a \$7 associated prize) are less than the sum of the individual payouts (i.e. two distinct matched occurrences of a single number with the occurrence of a powerball has $2 \times \$4 = \8 prize). This indicates that the player does obtain a value payout different from the sum of the plurality of value payouts (which is the applicant's concern). While also demonstrating that a portion of the value payouts (i.e. four matched numbers plus the powerball has a \$5,000 associated prize) are greater than the sum of the individual payouts (i.e. an occurrence of four matched number and the separate occurrence of a powerball has a $\$100 + \$3 = \$103$ prize). Powerball is silent regarding the inclusion of multiple player sets, however in a related publication Walker teaches the purchase of multiple sets of numbers (player symbols) for a lottery (Walker Col 1:35-41). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have incorporated the ability to purchase multiple sets of numbers as taught by Walker into the teachings of Powerball in order to allow an individual multiple chances to win in a game.

Art Unit: 3714

Regarding claims 5 and 10:

Powerball teaches calculating a payout for each set/entry hence constituting a base payout comprising the sum of individual payouts as so claimed.

Regarding claims 6-8 and 18-19:

Powerball/Walker teaches player purchasing of multiple sets (tickets) and as such they would implicitly have winning symbols capable of overlapping multiple sets in only a single occurrence of said winning symbol in addition to the awarding of the greatest available prize when multiple prizes are won. In this instance for an individual playing Keno and placing two separate wagers on a single selection of the same number the base game prize and the prize as determined through the summation of winning symbols will be the same amount. (Powerball; Match 5 Bonus Prize section)

Regarding claims 9:

Powerball teaches the awarding of a maximum individual payout per set through only awarding the highest paying combination as shown on the top of the first page of Powerball.

Regarding claims 11-12:

Powerball teaches a fixed player and winning set size and hence a fixed set size for multiple sets as so claimed (Powerball Page 3 First full paragraph).

Art Unit: 3714

Regarding claims 14-16:

Powerball/Walker teach the association of a fixed ticket price with each player set as such the limiting in number of player sets is implicitly determined based on the amount of the player wager.

Regarding claims 20-22, and 37:

though teaching a selection process for the selection of the winning numbers (symbols) Powerball/Walker may arguable considered silent to the process of winning number selection including random selection, pseudo- random selection, and the random selection of objects associated with winning symbols, however the applicant admits that such features are old and well known in the art in paragraphs 2 and 3 of their specification. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the selection processes set forth above in the invention of Powerball/Walker in order to provide a non-biased set of winning numbers.

Regarding claim 23:

Walker teaches the inclusion of processor pseudo-random symbol selections (Walker Col 1:43-46), however is silent regarding the use of such selections for use as a winning set. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the automated selections of Walker in the device of powerball to determine game outcome in order to avoid mechanical tampering or defect.

Regarding claims 24, 25, 39, and 40:

Walker teaches the selection of six number from a pool of forty-two (Col 2:20-23) wherein the absence of ball replacement would prevent the same symbol from being reselected. Further the occurrence of redundant numbers in his example would be inconsistent with the odds presented on line twenty-three. It would have been obvious to limit each number to a single selection and hence exclude previously selected prize numbers to maintain desired odd and or payout in the teaching of Powerball. Powerball, moreover, teaches presenting the player with a ticket identifying the player symbol selections in response to the placing of a wager by the player (Powerball Page 3 "purchase a ticket"), receiving a plurality of player symbol selections from a plurality of numerical possibilities (Powerball Page 3), selecting a plurality of winning symbol selections from said plurality of numerical possibilities and awarding a prize dependent on the number of corresponding player symbol selections and winning symbol selections (Powerball Page 3 & Page 1 "Powerball prizes and Odds"), and notifying the player of information related to the payout (Powerball Page 3 Paragraph 1).

The claimed multidimensional lookup table based on the respective number of symbols in each set of player symbols is shown on the top of the first page of Powerball. Said table also demonstrates that some of the value payouts (i.e. two matched numbers plus the powerball has a \$7 associated prize) are less then the sum of the individual payouts (i.e. two distinct matched occurrences of a single number with the occurrence of a powerball has $2 \times \$4 = \8 prize). This indicates that the player does obtain a value

Art Unit: 3714

payout different from the sum of the plurality of value payouts (which is the applicant's concern). While also demonstrating that a portion of the value payouts (i.e. four matched numbers plus the powerball has a \$5,000 associated prize) are greater than the sum of the individual payouts (i.e. an occurrence of four matched number and the separate occurrence of a powerball has a $\$100 + \$3 = \$103$ prize). Powerball is silent regarding the inclusion of multiple player sets, however in a related publication Walker teaches the purchase of multiple sets of numbers (player symbols) for a lottery (Walker Col 1:35-41). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have incorporated the ability to purchase multiple sets of numbers as taught by Walker into the teachings of Powerball in order to allow an individual multiple chances to win in a game.

Regarding claims 26-29:

Walker teaches the use of "quick pick" for providing a random automated selection of player symbols (Col 1:43-46) in addition to the previously provided for player selection and ability to purchase multiple tickets. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have allowed to purchase the number of tickets (sets of symbols) through either selecting the numbers manually or alternatively opting for a an automated selection to give the user the ability to blend a perceived skill game and a game of chance as they see fit.

Regarding claims 30-34, and 42:

Walker teaches the use of a networked lottery system for receiving a player's wager, receiving the player's symbol selection, and notifying the player of payout data, on remote computing device including personal and lottery terminal type devices (Walker Figures 1,7,8 and Col 5:23-25,). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have utilized a networked computing system such as the one taught by Walker in the invention of Powerball/Walker as a the game distribution means in order to increase game availability. To answer the applicant's concern, the claimed multidimensional lookup table based on the respective number of symbols in each set of player symbols is shown on the top of the first page of Powerball. Said table also demonstrates that some of the value payouts (i.e. two matched numbers plus the powerball has a \$7 associated prize) are less then the sum of the individual payouts (i.e. two distinct matched occurrences of a single number with the occurrence of a powerball has $2 \times \$4 = \8 prize). This indicates that the player does obtain a value payout different from the sum of the plurality of value payouts (which is the applicant's concern). While also demonstrating that a portion of the value payouts (i.e. four matched numbers plus the powerball has a \$5,000 associated prize) are greater then the sum of the individual payouts (i.e. an occurrence of four matched number and the separate occurrence of a powerball has a $\$100 + \$3 = \$103$ prize).

Claims 13, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Art Unit: 3714

**www.Powerball.com in view of Walker et al (US 6,497,408) in yet further view of
Frequently Asked Questions about Keno (FAQK)**

Regarding claims 13 and 17:

Powerball/Walker is silent regarding the inclusion of different symbols sized player sets however in a related teaching FAQK teaches the inclusion of various sized sets (Pages 1-2 chosen numbers). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include various set sizes in a lotto game in order to allow for a greater number of smaller payouts.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3714

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara Sarkhili whose telephone number is 571-272-2831.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571)272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SS

Ronald Jansen
Primary Examiner
4/13/07